

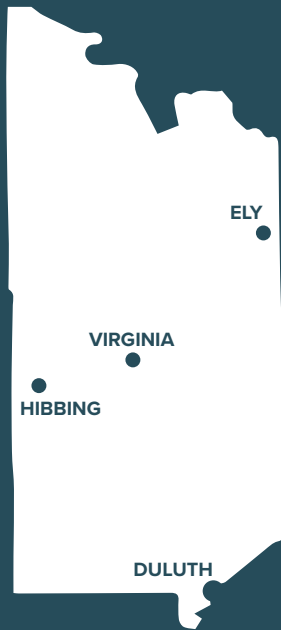


**PUBLIC HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES**
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MN

2022 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

**WE PROTECT, PROMOTE, AND IMPROVE
THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN ST. LOUIS
COUNTY THROUGH A DIVERSE SET
OF PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND
INITIATIVES THAT WORK AT ALL
LEVELS AND THROUGHOUT
OUR COMMUNITY**





SERVICE CENTERS ARE
CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN FOUR
CITIES THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTY.
EACH CENTER PROVIDES ACCESS
TO FINANCIAL, SOCIAL AND PUBLIC
HEALTH SERVICES. FOR THE MOST
UP-TO-DATE ACCESS INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE.

stlouiscountymn.gov/phhs

Our goal is to help people achieve a better life. We do this by helping people we serve overcome - or make progress despite - the obstacles blocking their path to self-sufficiency and by working in partnership to improve the health of our entire community.

Vision

A community where all people are safe and healthy.

Mission

To protect, promote, and improve the health and quality of life in St Louis County.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Children and Family Services Division works with children and their families, with the goal of keeping children in their homes and in the care of people with whom they have an existing relationship. We partner with families to provide preventive services, supportive resources, intervention, and, when necessary, placements to ensure safety, permanency and well-being for children.

1,756 CHILDREN WERE SERVED IN VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS.

348 CHILDREN WERE SERVED THROUGH MENTAL HEALTH CASE MANAGEMENT.

13 NEW FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND **3** NEW CHILD CENTERS LICENSED FOR A TOTAL OF **137** ACTIVE LICENSES.

3,531 CHILDREN WERE SUBJECTS OF A SCREENED-IN MALTREATMENT REPORT.



439 CONTINUOUS PLACEMENT DISCHARGES INVOLVING **416** CHILDREN. OF THE **439** DISCHARGES IN 2022, THERE WERE **224** REUNIFICATIONS WITH PARENTS/ PRIMARY CARETAKERS, **67** TRANSFERS OF PERMANENT LEGAL AND PHYSICAL CUSTODY TO A RELATIVE, **65** ADOPTIONS FINALIZED, **47** LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES, **27** REACHED AGE OF MAJORITY, **6** RAN AWAY FROM PLACEMENT/PLACEMENT NO LONGER PLANNED, **2** TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER AGENCY, AND **1** GUARDIANSHIP TO AN UNRELATED INDIVIDUAL.

347 CHILDREN ENTERED OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT, AND THERE WERE A TOTAL OF **851** CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT AT SOME POINT DURING THE YEAR.

146 CHILDREN BENEFITED FROM A PARENT COMPLETING THE CIRCLE OF SECURITY PARENTING PROGRAM.

Children and Family Services (CFS) in St. Louis County is moving to improve earlier intervention and prevention efforts with the hope to decrease child maltreatment and out-of-home placements for children. This aligns with the national Family First Prevention Services Act, which was enacted to change the child welfare system from a reactive system that responds to reports of child maltreatment, toward a system that keeps children safely with their families to avoid the trauma that results when children are placed in out-of-home care. This requires building a comprehensive prevention continuum that can meet the needs of all children and families.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE EARLIER INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION SERVICES THAT WE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY:

MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING

CFS trained **140** social workers in Motivational Interviewing in 2022. Motivational Interviewing is a service that was approved on MN's Families First Prevention Services Plan and is a person-centered, goal-oriented method of communication for enhancing intrinsic motivation to change by exploring and resolving ambivalence. Many families are expected to be impacted in the upcoming year.

PEER RECOVERY SPECIALISTS

CFS contracted with a community agency to provide Peer Recovery Specialists who offer recovery support to families impacted by substance use, as well as coordinated connection with other community resources. In 2022, **75** parents were supported by this service.

PARENT MENTORS

47 families have been supported through Parent Mentors who help parents involved in the child protection system.

CRISIS STABILIZATION BEDS

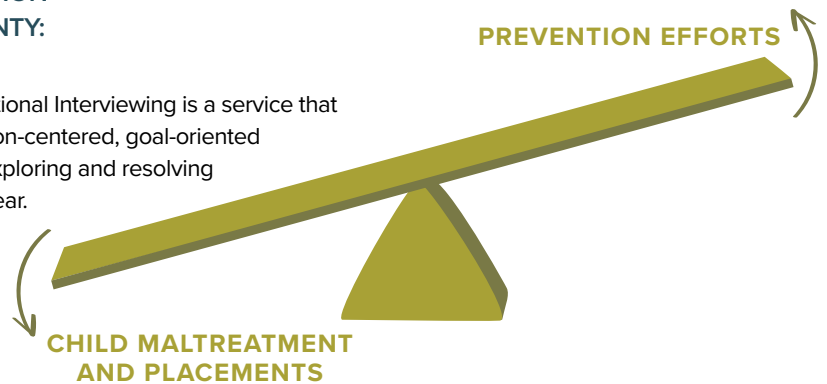
With a significant shortage of short-term placement options for children and adolescents experiencing acute mental health crises, St. Louis County partnered with Northwoods Children's Services to develop two mental health crisis stabilization beds in their residential facility. Since available, nine children have received services for crisis stabilization.

HIGH FIDELITY WRAPAROUND

This service is for children with complex needs who are served by multiple agencies and are at risk of out-of-home placement. A team of family, friends and supporters are brought together to create a family-specific plan of support. This year, **16** families have been served.



St. Louis County Commissioners approved using American Rescue Plan funds to support students who fell behind in school during the COVID-19 pandemic by using a proven intervention program called Check & Connect. The **\$5.3 million** in funding is supporting **45** mentors and two coordinators across **34** schools in St. Louis County for three years. Through the end of the 2022 school year, Check & Connect served **1,382** students, with a year-end enrollment of **883** students. The impact was a **60%** reduction in absences and a **61%** decrease in suspensions.



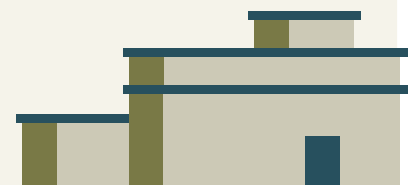
FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

CHILDREN'S INTENSIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

St. Louis County will be the first county delivering intensive in-home services to eligible families provided by a mental health professional beginning in 2023.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

A grant was received from the Sauer Foundation which enables St. Louis County to assess needs and possibilities of developing Family Resource Centers in communities aimed to decrease child maltreatment.



HERE ARE SOME OF THE PROMISING EARLY RESULTS

A **33% decrease** in children entering out-of-home placement over the **last 5 years.**

A **21% decrease** in new child maltreatment assessment in the **last 4 years.**

For the **third consecutive year**, a decrease in child maltreatment assessments requiring case management.

ECONOMIC SERVICES & SUPPORTS

The Economic Services and Supports (ESS) Division administers state and federal programs that provide assistance to those in need. This includes medical care, food, cash, child care, child support, and emergency assistance.

Economic Services & Supports (ESS) provided **\$882,463.22** in emergency assistance.

55,271 low-income individuals received healthcare through Medical Assistance (Medicaid).

The Minnesota Family Investment Program provided **\$14.4 million** in support, with an average of **3,113** individuals served each month.

ESS handled **8,014** child support cases and collected **\$19.6 million**.



ESS served an average of **3,084** adults each month.

\$5.5 million was provided to people from General Assistance and Minnesota Supplemental Aid cash.

Over **\$50.6 million** was issued through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Employees served an average of **16,361** people and **10,769** households, with an average benefit of **\$391.90** per month.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Public Health Division works to promote and protect the health of all residents in St. Louis County. Our work is done through assessing the health and environments of individuals and communities, implementing educational programs, conducting research, and recommending policies that promote health.



The county created a full-time school liaison position that offered updates and consultations with **32** schools across **24** districts.

2,674 monthly participants in Women Infant & Children (WIC) Clinics.

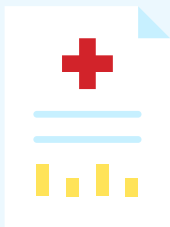
4,269 contacts with under-immunized children.

2,955 home visits by Public Health nurses.

91 mothers completed group parenting sessions.

69 follow-up appointments for acute lead toxicity.

30 public health nuisance follow-ups.



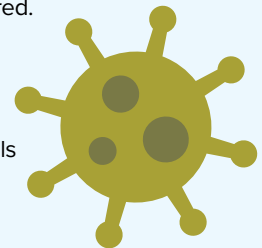
1258 individuals were served through care coordination in the community or nursing facilities.

St. Louis County Public Health offered **71** infection control consultations to various community agencies, organizations and businesses.

2,937 COVID-19 vaccines were administered.

80 individuals accessed the county-run COVID-19 Isolation & Quarantine center.

The County provided essential services (food and household items) to **97** individuals during the 2022 Covid response.



COLLABORATING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

The St. Louis County Board approved **\$364,000** in both 2021 and 2022 to fund five community-based projects initiated and run by local organizations / partnerships that address mental health, youth substance abuse, and food insecurity (needs identified during the community health needs assessments in our county). Selected projects awarded were:

- Range Mental Health partnered with the Virginia Fire Department to create a mobile response unit in northern St. Louis County, which improved response in the community to **mental health, youth substance abuse, and food insecurity concerns**.
- Mesabi Range College Addiction Studies Department who trained Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors and County Social workers to provide support to **youth with substance use disorders** in St. Louis County.
- Recovery Alliance Duluth expanded their programming to northern St. Louis County, providing **recovery support, education, and awareness** to eliminate the stigma surrounding recovery and substance use.
- Stone Soup Partnership (involving Ecolibrium 3, Duluth Community Garden Program, Community Action Duluth, and the Duluth Children's Museum) created a variety of initiatives that directly **addressed food insecurity and provided mental health support** for people in the Hillside and West Duluth areas.
- American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO) developed a community kitchen in their Gimaajii-Mino-Bimaadizimin building that addressed **food insecurity** in the Duluth area by increasing **direct access to prepared meals** while also providing **access to a commercial kitchen** for food local producers.



ADULTS

Adult Services provides assistance to adults with chemical health and mental health needs, those over 65 who need support, and adults and children with intellectual and physical disabilities. We also protect vulnerable adults from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

HOME & COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

SERVING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, CHRONIC ILLNESS, BRAIN INJURIES, AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

The MnCHOICES intake team triaged **7,504** calls, with a monthly average of **625** calls.

2,159 new/initial MnCHOICES assessments were assigned, connecting people to a variety of services.

804 people served with the Developmental Disabilities Waiver, with **\$88,149,156** spent.

1,685 people were served with Disability Waivers (CADI, CAC, BI) with **\$78,891,298** spent.

69 people received SILS Services with **\$672,712** spent.

40 Children/Young Adults were helped with a Family Support Grant (FSG) with **\$78,487** spent.

855 MnCHOICES Reassessments were completed.

595 PCA MnCHOICES Reassessments were completed.

448 people were served through Elderly Waiver (EW), Alternative Care Waiver (AC) and/or Essential Community Supports (ECS).



Community Presentations: **14** MnCHOICES Presentations were offered for community providers. This was done by the MnCHOICES Intake team of three “Community Ambassadors.” These presentations are to empower providers to help individuals navigate their way into waivers for people who are aging or have a disability.

Accessibility: **89** complex Environmental Accessibility Adaptations (EAA home modifications) were reviewed by our internal EAA team. This team assists case managers in the provision of larger, more involved home modifications, which address the disability and/or aging needs of a person. These modifications allow people to remain living in the most integrated setting possible, most often their own home. A small number of home modifications are also done in foster care settings. Examples include bathroom remodels to provide accessible showers, sinks, and toilets, along with widening doorways for wheelchair access.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS, ADULT MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE & RECOVERY, AND ADULT PROTECTION

There was a **24%** increase in long term housing beds in 2022 (added 57 beds) and an additional **71** beds are being developed.

In the Duluth area, CHUM provides sleeping space for **80** people and drop-in space for **70** people per night and an additional **58** individuals accessed the warming center each night this winter.

In the northern communities, hotel vouchers were utilized to serve as warming centers/ space and **278** individuals were served by AEOA. The County Board approved funding for a new AEOA shelter in Hibbing, significantly increasing capacity to serve needs.

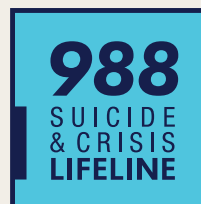
To provide emergency, supportive, and transitional housing, SLC applied for and coordinated over **\$3.2 million** through competitive state and federal funding to support local community organizations.

Almost **\$8.7 million** was spent over the past year in housing support payments to providers that reduce and prevent homelessness in our community.

1,048 housing assessments and **1,133** prescreens for prevention and assistance programming were completed.

210 prevention referrals to community organizations.

585 unsheltered people in the county, according to the 2022 Point In Time (PIT) count.



Calls to the newly developed crisis line “988” (launched in July 2022). There were **279** calls south and **162** north.

3,272 calls in southern SLC and **531** calls in northern SLC to crisis response.

Crisis Stabilization is a critical service that is utilized across the county. In the Duluth area, there was a **77.26%** average occupancy rate, and in northern SLC there was a **46.4%** average occupancy rate.

527 adults were served through mental health case management.

280 individuals were screened for civil commitments as ordered by the courts, resulting in **159** individuals civilly committed for mental illness, chemical dependency, or both.

103 individuals were supported through intensive case management as part of treatment courts.

165 individuals were supported through community-based mental health services (ACT and T-ACT).

806 comprehensive assessments were completed, including correctional settings (**282** jail, NERCC or AJC) and in coordination with CFS (**145** of which were with the embedded positions with CFS).

2,026 reports were received for adult protection, with **251** cases opened.

219 people were served through guardianship and **52** individuals through rep payee services (phasing out rep payee services).





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